

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

## CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

## SANTA ANA REGION

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May 21, 1997

To: All Interested Parties, UST Program  
Local Oversight Program Agencies  
Local Implementing Agencies

Subject: Addition of Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) to Basic Analytical Suite

MTBE is an important ground water contaminant because of its mobility, persistence in the subsurface and classification as a possible human carcinogen. Recent data have demonstrated that MTBE is widely released at existing UST sites within the Santa Ana Region. For this reason, the Regional Board staff is specifically adding the quantification of MTBE to the standard analytical suites for petroleum release sites, in addition to benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes.

Water Code Section 13267(b) states that a regional board may require those technical and monitoring reports necessary for its investigation of the quality of the waters within its region. Furthermore, it states "the burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports."

The quantification of MTBE will be a required component of any environmental evaluation at petroleum release sites. This requirement will be applied to all analyzed samples of all appropriate media, such as soil, soil vapor or water samples. This may result in additional investigative activities to adequately define the extent of MTBE-impacted soil and/or groundwater.

The presentation of the MTBE data shall mirror that of the other BTEX components, and shall be included in all tables and interpretations. Additionally, graphics, such as contour maps and cross-sections, should adequately present the MTBE data.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the staff of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board at (909) 782-4130, or the staff of the appropriate local oversight agency.

Sincerely,

  
Gerard J. Thibeault  
Executive Officer